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Increasing Our Membership

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IMAGINE—CHEMISTRY

(Continued from page 7)

- IV. Nature of matter
 - States of matter
 - Classification
- V. How atoms are held together
- VI. Chemical reactions
- VII. Electricity and matter
- VIII. Avids, bases, and salts
- IX. Chemical tests: iodine, litmus, and lime water

An all-inclusive test was furnished by Mr. Beitzel, to be administered before and after study of the unit. Teachers may, or may not, use the testing materials as they wish.

The language of chemistry is one of the difficult areas. Symbols are readily grasped; some children understand formulas, too. But the balancing of chemical equations leaves pupils confused. The Atomic Chart (the first three periods of the Periodic Table) is most interesting to the children. Diatomic molecules and radicals are difficult to understand.

Some children intensely dislike having to think out a possible solution to explain what is happening. They would rather look in a book for the solution. Perhaps teachers have been at fault in over-teaching by supplying too many work-sheets. As a result the child doesn't know how to proceed under self direction.

The authors feel that chemistry is a desirable addition to the elementary school science program. It gives some depth to previous and to subsequent science learnings. If teachers at the junior and senior high school level are aware of the progress that has been made at the lower levels, they should be able to capitalize on this background and this would prove to be an asset rather than an interference with their domain.

INCREASING OUR MEMBERSHIP

At this writing we have approximately 111 members in good standing or should I say just standing and not doing much else. If we are to become a group of scientists who teach, then why don't we quit standing and attempt to get at least one fellow teacher in each school system to join our association? I know it's nice to join a group and just sit back and watch someone else do the work, and then if things don't go too well we can criticize and moan and groan about how it should have been done.

On December 14th your executive officers met at Iowa State University for two high level meetings concerning our future in Iowa professional ranks. The morning meeting was with the college officials with whom we will work in sponsoring the Iowa Science Teachers' Short Course in March. We have taken over the introductory part of the meeting in the morning session and are going to organize a junior high school teachers' session on physical sciences. This will include a meeting on the teaching of "The Periodic Chart" and "the setting-up of some elementary electrolytic chemical cells" that can be used to demonstrate the flow of electrons.

The physics group will see some demonstrations on how "the spectrograph works in determination of subatomic particles" and how the spectrograms are used in analyzing atoms. The high school level sessions have also been revised and new topics will be discussed. All in all, our organization is on the move. What can you do to volunteer your services? Sell yourself on the fact that we've got a good thing going and then sell this to a fellow teacher. Don't sell yourself short. A good salesman believes in his product. **How about YOU?**

Join Your ISTA Today

Lindy Solon
Secretary of ISTA